Witten, Quinn taking their talents elsewhere SPORTSDAY

The Dallas Morning News

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CORONAVIRUS

Huge stimulus weighed

Food stores rush to restock, hope for calmer shopping

Arlington man who died was positive for COVID-19

Trump team wants to send payments to Americans

Lynda M. Gonzalez/Staff Photographer

Picking up free lunch, with a side of caution

Angie Andrade and her children (from left) Angel, 10, Austin, 7, and Abigail, 3, wore protective masks Tuesday as they arrived for free sack lunches at J.T. Saldivar Elementary School in Dallas. All Dallas ISD students, who are on spring break this week, can get free grab-and-go breakfast from 9 to 9:30 a.m. and lunch from 12:30 to 1 p.m. through Thursday at several district campuses. Information is available at dallasisd.org/childnutrition.

Mnuchin reportedly warns that failing to act could send jobless rate to nearly 20%

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration wants to send direct cash payments to Americans in the coming weeks to help them cope with the economic ravages of the coronavirus, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Tuesday, part of a massive economic stimulus package taking shape between the White House and Capitol Hill.

The overall cost of the package could be around $1 trillion, Mnuchin told reporters on Capitol Hill after meeting with GOP senators, making it one of the largest federal emergency fiscal packages ever assembled.

He also gave lawmakers a dire warning that if they failed to act, the unemployment rate could spike to nearly 20% from the roughly 3.5% level it notched in February, according to three people familiar with his comments who spoke on the condition of anonymity to reveal internal deliberations.

News of the stimulus planning sent the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 1,000 points Tuesday, recouping some of its losses from Monday.

But reservations expressed Tuesday by Democrats over various aspects of the package suggested that it could take some time to arrive at a bipartisan agreement that could pass both cham-

See **ECONOMIC** Page 4A

Abbott resists top-down response

By TODD J. GILLMAN and JAMES BARRAGÁN
Staff Writers

The nation's top experts on infectious disease have issued a stern warning: No gatherings of more than 10 people.

But under America's patchwork system, that's just a suggestion.

Authority over public health sits largely at the state level. The White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention don't mandate. They cajole — something the president has done with the nation's governors for days.

The result: mixed messages, and rules that vary across city, county and state lines in much the same way as speed limits, gun sales and voting machines. The Dallas and Richardson school districts have closed schools indefinitely but some parochial and private schools remain open.

Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and Austin have closed restaurants but other cities have not.

While some governors have imposed strict restrictions during the COVID-19 outbreak, Gov. Greg Abbott has left much of the decision-making to mayors, county leaders and elected school boards.

Abbott deflected the idea of ordering a statewide closure of restaurants under emergency powers he invoked Friday, insisting Tuesday that local leaders — relying on advice from local health authorities — "can make the right decision that is best for their community."

See **ABBOTT** Page 10A

Grocers striving to catch up

Supply chain strained but not broken, expert says

By MARIA HALKIAS
Staff Writer
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Grocers are watching consumers carefully over the next few days, calculating that this may be a transition week to calmer shopping patterns.

"We think consumers may take a step back and the pantry stocking may settle out as families are home and people are cooking meals," said Doug Baker, vice president at the Food Marketing Institute, a research and trade group that works with the U.S. grocery industry.

The supply chain is one to two days behind demand, and retailers say they are working as fast as they can both in their warehouses and in stores to restock shelves.

"A major grocer told me that if he added any more people in the warehouse, they'd be tripping over themselves," Baker said.

This week could determine longer-

See **GROCERY** Page 11A

Test came back positive, but he'd already died

Arlington man who waited days for results may be region's first victim; wife is ill and untested

By REESE OXNER
Special Contributor
and DANA BRANHAM
Staff Writer

The family of a 77-year-old man who died Sunday at an Arlington hospital learned Tuesday evening that he had tested positive for COVID-19.

Pat James, who lived in Arlington, was hospitalized with double pneumonia about a week ago at Arlington Memorial Hospital. His death could be the first in the region that has been linked to the coronavirus.

"My heart is broken because my father-in-law was in isolation in ICU at the

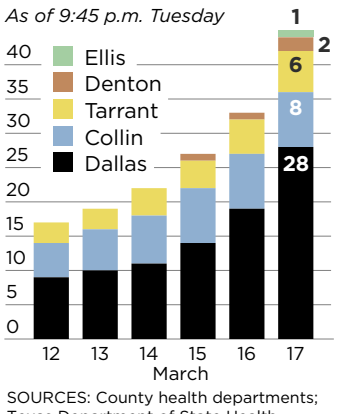
Pat James' wife, Jean, remains quarantined.

See **FAMILY** Page 8A

Coronavirus in North Texas

Cumulative cases each day by county:

As of 9:45 p.m. Tuesday



SOURCES: County health departments; Texas Department of State Health Services; DMN reporting

Laurie Joseph/Staff Artist

INSIDE

TO KEEP SENIORS SAFE, Medicare is turning to telemedicine. **12A**

STATE AND LOCAL RUNOFFS are in flux as political parties weigh logistics of all-mail ballots and safety of in-person voting. **1B**

CHURCHILL DOWNS postpones the Kentucky Derby. **6C**

FOR A SUMMARY of coronavirus coverage in today's paper, **see 2A.**

NEWSLETTER: To sign up for a coronavirus updates newsletter, go to **join.dallasnews.com/newsletter**.

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OBITUARY

Co-star of 'Carol Burnett Show'

Lyle Waggoner, who used his good looks to comic effect on *The Carol Burnett Show,* partnered with a superhero on *Wonder Woman* and was the first centerfold for *Playgirl*, died Tuesday. He was 84. **11B**

WORLD

China revokes U.S. journalists' credentials

China will revoke the media credentials of all American journalists at *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*, in effect expelling them from the country. **2A**